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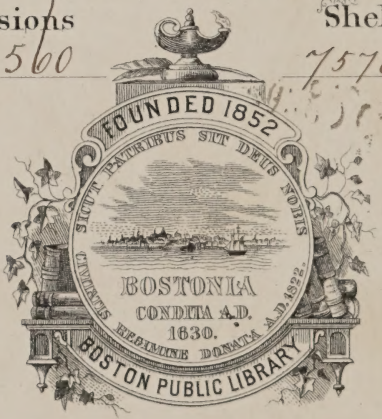

Received May 2, 1889.

A.SEP. 8

THE

PENITENT FEMALES' REFUGE

AND

BETHESDA SOCIETIES,

IN THE CITY OF BOSTON,

EMBRACING THEIR

OBJECT, ACT OF INCORPORATION, CONSTITUTION, AND RULES AND REGULATIONS;

WITH

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS, &c.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF T. R. MARVIN & SON, 42 CONGRESS ST.
1859.

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B. H.
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May 2. 1889

OFFICERS

OF THE

PENITENT FEMALES' REFUGE.

1859.

HENRY HILL . . . . . PRESIDENT AND TREASURER.
JOHN C. PROCTOR . . . VICE PRESIDENT.
STEPHEN G. DEBLOIS . SECRETARY.

Directors.

EZRA FARNSWORTH,
EDWIN LAMSON,
ANDREW J. LOUD,
PHILO SANFORD,
MRS. SAMUEL HUBBARD,
MRS. ARTHUR WILKINSON,
" HENRY WOOD,
" CHARLES S. DRURY,
" E. G. TUCKER,
" IRA GREENWOOD,
MRS. EBENEZER SMITH.

OFFICERS OF THE BETHESDA SOCIETY.

Mrs. NORMAN SEAVER . . . . President.
Mrs. ARTHUR WILKINSON . . . Vice President.
Miss LOUISA J. BROWN . . . . Treasurer.
Mrs. ELISHA G. TUCKER . . . . Secretary.

Managers.

Mrs. EDWARD S. RAND,
" CHARLES S. DRURY,
" SAMUEL HUBBARD,
" HENRY WOOD,
Miss MARY B. HERRING,
Mrs. EBEN SMITH,
" FREEMAN ALLEN,
Mrs. IRA GREENWOOD,
" JOSEPH W. CLARK,
" MATTHEW S. PARKER,
" CORNELIUS DRISCOLL,
" J. C. TYLER,
" A. C. BECKET,
" STEPHEN G. DEBLOIS,
Miss MARTHA WAINWRIGHT.

Honorary Members of the Board.

Mrs. DANIEL P. PARKER, | Mrs. LEMUEL SHAW,
Miss SARAH STOCKER.

Donations in Money, Goods, Provisions, Clothing, &c., will be gratefully received.

This Institution is located in Rutland Street.

THE PENITENT FEMALES' REFUGE AND BETHESDA SOCIETIES.

The object of these two Societies, which have now been united, is, to benefit that class of females who have been allured from the paths of virtue and purity—the victims or the associates of the licentious and abandoned—who are desirous of escaping from the ruin and wretchedness which lies before them. It is a source of unutterable regret to every Christian Philanthropist, who is aware in any measure of the number and degradation of this class among us, that so few of them are sensible of the awful end to which they are hastening, or have so little inclination to pause in their path to ruin; and, that so small a portion only of those who, by the visitation of Providence, or the treachery of companions in sin, are brought to reflection, and are compelled to look into the gulf of misery which is ready to receive them, can be persuaded to break from their course of sin, and seek by repentance and reformation, a return to virtue and happiness; and in regard to these, it would be well if, at such a time, some kind friend were at hand to guide them to a *Refuge*. It is this portion that we can hope to benefit by our instructions and efforts, as well as those who are inclined to evil habits, but who are not wholly given up to immorality and vice; and it is to such that the doors of our institution are opened, and our sympathies tendered.

*

The reformation contemplated is not partial or temporary, but radical and entire. To those, therefore, who would be admitted to its privileges, or seek admission for others, we would say : that there is very little benefit to be expected for those who come with any other motive than a sincere desire forever to forsake their past course of life, and a firm resolution to persevere in a course of well-doing, whatever pains or self-denial it may cost them. To such we are confident no regulations or requirements of the institution will be thought unnecessary or unreasonable. As it has been founded for their benefit, so its regulations have been framed with special reference to the same end ; and whenever it has failed to benefit permanently those who have been its inmates, it has resulted from the want of an honest desire, and a persevering determination to reform, on the part of the individual. It is obvious that one of the first principles in its management, as in every prosperous community or family, must be, that a prompt and cheerful obedience is to be rendered to all the reasonable commands and directions of those who are intrusted with its government, and a willingness on the part of each to co-operate; and by a good example, and kind offices, to promote the good of every other member.

It is very desirable, for the good of the individual seeking the benefit of the Institution, as well as to enable it to extend its aid to the greatest number of the same class, that whatever is done in each case should be accomplished in the shortest possible time ; and yet it will be obvious to every reflecting mind, when the object to be attained and the difficulties in the way to be surmounted are considered, that a very brief space of time will be insufficient. In most cases, habits of industry and application are to be formed and strengthened—instruction in the first rudiments of a common education, and in the most simple

departments of domestic economy, are to be imparted, to prepare the individual to sustain herself honorably and usefully when leaving our roof. It is with these views that the time for a residence at the Refuge, proposed in our Rules, has been fixed as the shortest in which, in the opinion of the Directors, an object so desirable can be accomplished; and with any adequate sense of the priceless value of a character and life redeemed from error—a foundation laid for future usefulness and happiness—and above all, as we would ardently hope, a soul redeemed from sin and prepared for endless felicity,—a seclusion from the world for this brief period cannot be worthy of the name of a sacrifice.

As in the management of the concerns of the Refuge, and in the instruction of those committed to their care, the Directors would feel their dependence on God for wisdom adequate for the proper discharge of these duties, they would also deeply feel and acknowledge the necessity of a manifestation of the power of Divine Grace to render them effectual; and though they have to regret the many cases in which they have reaped only disappointment, yet for those in which this grace has been vouchsafed and the most happy result attained, they would be devoutly thankful.

The Penitent Females' Refuge Society was incorporated in 1823, and has gone on from that time, with only a temporary suspension of its labors, endeavoring, under many discouragements, to perform its appropriate work.

The Bethesda Society, consisting exclusively of ladies, is of more recent organization, having the same object in view, intending from the first to unite its efforts with the Penitent Females' Refuge Society, in which many of the members have been among its most efficient

helpers from its earliest years; or to act in an independent capacity, as should be thought most desirable for the attainment of its great end.

The present union of the two Societies has been most happily consummated, and in their united exertions they anticipate an increase of strength, stability and efficiency to the Institution, which they hope will secure the confidence and obtain the pecuniary aid of the benevolent in the community, by whose generous aid their labors have been prosecuted thus far, and to whom they must still look, in part, for future support. This assistance is indispensable.

The following extracts from the Reports of the two Secretaries of the Societies for 1859 are given, that the friends of the cause may form some idea of what has been done.

The Secretary of the Refuge, in his Report, dated February 2, 1859, says:

At the time of the Annual Meeting in February, 1858, the number of inmates was		18
The number admitted during the past year, . .		19
Making the whole number during the year,		37
Of these, there were		
Placed at service, ...	4	
Dismissed for service, ...	1	
Restored to friends, ...	4	
Restored to friends as unpromising, . . .	2	
Dismissed at their own request, ...	5	
Dismissed for misconduct, ...	1	
Left without permission, ...	3	—20
Leaving as the number now in the House, . .		17

The usual religious exercises have been held each Sabbath, morning and evening; the Bible Class at noon is continued in charge of Deacon Proctor, while an additional

service has been held each Thursday morning by Rev. Mr. Byrne; and the Monthly Missionary Concert still receives the persevering attention of our long-tried friend, Deacon Thwing. The religious interest has been deeper than usual, several inmates, under the subduing and transforming power of the gospel of Jesus, having expressed a hope that He who can alone speak the word, had said to *them*, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee; go in peace.'

No cases of former inmates relapsing into vice have come to our knowledge, while the customary friendly visits of some of these inmates have been continued, and have afforded much satisfaction. Four of such have made a public profession, and united themselves with evangelical churches, during the past year, and evince, by their life and conversation, warm interest in the cause of Christ. One of the first inmates of this House, in whom the late Mrs. Minot took so deep an interest, who "made the threshold of this Institution a stepping-stone for her departing feet, to a life of purity and honor," has made her annual visit, bringing "such a grateful heart to this scene of healthful and saving discipline," as no one could witness without emotion. There is one interesting case, worthy of attention, of a girl who had been guilty of stealing, and who was sent here by her friends. (We quote the report of one of the ladies.) "She had, through a season of religious interest, given decided evidence of a change of heart, and expressed the wish that she could earn enough for herself, to be able to refund a quarter of a dollar, to a person from whom she had pilfered it. She was permitted to do so, and inclosing the money in a letter remarkably well expressed, stated the circumstances, with great penitence to God, as well as to the person. She also states the change which had taken place in her own mind—wishing she could in every instance express her sorrow for her past sinful course.

This girl, when first brought to the Institution, could not write a word." She now says, "I never can do enough for the Refuge."

During the year, the Superintendent has been requested to invest the savings of three of the past inmates, and has received from them the sums of $20, $30, and $100; thus showing the practical results of the system instilled here, and speaking in unmistakable terms of their subsequent good behavior, and industrious habits.

In conclusion, the Board would express the satisfaction with which they meet on the present occasion. Our last year's Report closed with *anticipations;* we now close with *realizations*, for we "thank God and take courage" that two such Societies are so harmoniously and cordially co-operating, in carrying forward this blessed work.

Appropriate allusion is made, in the Report of the Secretary of the Bethesda Society, to the decease of valued patrons of the Society, including Mrs. Minot, for more than thirty years the President, and Mrs. Hill, one of the most efficient Managers. Acknowledgment is made of a legacy of one thousand dollars, from the estate of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Gurney, one of the earliest Directors of the Institution in 1825; also of five hundred dollars, from Mrs. Mary Smith, of Newburyport.

The Report of Mr. Henry Hill, the Treasurer of the "Refuge," shows the receipts for 1859 to be $2,102 15; ($452 from the Bethesda Society, $1,213 from individuals, and $438 for work performed by the inmates;) and the expenses $2,077 23. The expenses included $1,420 17 for provisions, fuel, and other expenses of the inmates, and $468 for salaries of the Superintendent and Assistants.

A large number of facts might be given relating to those who have been reformed by means of these Societies, but there would not be room for them in a docu-

ment of this kind. Letters are often received from those who have left the Institution, which express the warmest gratitude for the benefit they have derived while at the "Refuge." These letters serve greatly to encourage those who are laboring to reclaim the erring and the vicious, and must convince any one that the labor and money expended have not been lost.

One of the former inmates wrote some time ago as follows: "How I love to hear from my dear old home! It does my heart good. There is not a day but I think of you all, and wish I could see you. I feel very happy, and try to do all in my power to make others so. I think the instructions I received at the 'Refuge' have not been lost; and I bless the day I entered it, for it has made me what I am."—Another writes to the Superintendent: "I often think of you, and shall never cease to remember you as long as I live. Tell the girls to be good girls, and try to help you all they can. I thank God for giving me such kind friends, when I had no one to care for me."—Another still: "Oh! when I look back on my past life, and think how little good I have done for myself or any one else, it makes my heart ache to think of it. I thank God for bringing me through what he has, and making me what I am now. And you, my kind friends, I hope will be rewarded for all you have done for me."

Another instance is that of a young girl, of great personal attractions, who had enjoyed in New England all the benefits of a good common-school education. She left her home in consequence of disagreement with her step-mother, and came to this city, alone and without friends. In seeking employment, she unfortunately met with evil-minded persons, who spared no pains to entice her from the paths of rectitude. But the inward monitor would not be silenced; and at last, with a desperate effort, she freed herself from the companionship of vice,

and, in her pressing need, was directed to this place. Imagine the joy of her father, who, sorrowing, had sought her for many months, at discovering that a kind Providence had guided the footsteps of his erring child to the Refuge! She became one of the most orderly and industrious members of the family; and her sweet voice often cheered her companions at their tasks. The power of the gospel was shown in this case, in subduing the pride and rebellion of the heart, and in rendering her willing to labor or to suffer, according to God's will.

A quarter part of all who have been admitted to the Refuge, since its organization, have been, it is hoped, permanently reformed; and one quarter part who have left with recommendations, have united with evangelical churches; and one third of the latter class have respectably married.

We subjoin the Act of Incorporation of the Penitent Females' Refuge, with the Constitution, Rules, Regulations, &c.

Act of Incorporation.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE.

An Act to incorporate the Penitent Females' Refuge in the City of Boston.

SECTION 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Horace Fox, Edmund Parsons, Abraham A. Dame, Thomas Vose, William Jenks, John C. Proctor, Pliny Cutler, Aaron P. Cleveland, Charles Tappan, George Odiorne, John Tappan, Heman Lincoln, Edmund A. Winchester, Henry Homes, George J. Homer, Moses Grant, Francis Wayland, Jr., and Alden Bradford, together with such others as may hereafter be associated with them, and their successors be, and they hereby are incorporated by the name of "The Penitent Females' Refuge, in the City of Boston;" and by that name shall be a Corporation forever, for the purpose of affording relief, assistance and protection to penitent females, with power to have a common seal, to receive and hold any sum or sums of money from persons disposed to promote the intentions of said Society; to make contracts relative to the objects thereof, to sue and be sued, to establish by-laws and orders for the regulation of said Society, and the due preservation and application of its funds; provided the same be not repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth; and to take and hold real and personal estate, not exceeding the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That said Corporation shall annually meet in Boston, at such time and place as they may

from time to time appoint, for the purpose of electing, by ballot, such officers for the term of one year, and until others shall be elected and qualified in their stead, with such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the by-laws of said Corporation.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That any two of the persons above named, be and they hereby are authorized to call the first meeting of said Corporation, by advertisement printed in any newspaper published in the city of Boston, at least seven days prior to the appointment of such meeting.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That the present officers of the said association, shall continue to execute their several duties, until an election of officers shall have taken place, agreeably to the provisions of said act: provided, nevertheless, that the Legislature may alter or repeal this act, whenever it shall be deemed expedient.

Approved by the Governor, Jan. 21, 1823.

Copy, A. BRADFORD, *Secretary.*

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Society shall be known by the name of The Penitent Females' Refuge, in the City of Boston.

Art. 2. Any person who shall pay annually, at least two dollars, shall be a member of the Society; or by the payment of twenty-five dollars, shall become a member for life. All those who shall have acted as Directors since the incorporation of the Society, shall also be regarded as permanent members, unless they decline; and the Society shall have power to elect other members at any regular meeting, on the nomination of the Board of Directors.

Art. 3. The annual meeting, for the choice of officers, by ballot, shall be held on the first Thursday in the month of February.

Art. 4. The officers of this Society, shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and ten Directors,

who, together, shall be the Board of Directors; which Board, thus constituted, shall have the entire management and government of the house, and shall maintain a constant superintendence, by visits of inspection, made by some one or more of their own number, in such manner and order, as the Board shall prescribe; and shall make a report of their proceedings, and of the state of the Refuge, to the Society, at the annual meeting.

Art. 5. The Board shall meet once in each month. Five members shall constitute a quorum. They shall enact by-laws to govern their own proceedings, and for the regulation of the Refuge.

Art. 6. The Board shall have power to fill all vacancies which may happen in their number by death, resignation, or non-attendance, and the persons so appointed, shall be members until the next annual meeting.

Art. 7. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, under the direction of the Board; and shall keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Board, and of the Society. He shall also notify the members of all meetings.

Art. 8. The Treasurer shall take charge of all monies and other property belonging to the Society, and keep a just and fair account of all his receipts and expenditures. He shall not pay out monies on account of the Institution, except by order of the Directors. His books of account shall be open for inspection, by any member of the Society, at all regular meetings. He shall also make a full report of the state of the funds at the annual meeting.

Art. 9. No person shall be employed as a Superintendent of the Refuge, who does not possess a reputation for piety and discretion.

Art. 10. Any four members of the Board may require a special meeting, either of the Board or of the Society.

Art. 11. This Constitution may not be altered, but at the annual meeting; such alteration having been presented in writing to the Board of Directors at a regular monthly meeting.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE PENITENT FEMALES' REFUGE, CITY OF BOSTON.

Of the Government.

1. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to regulate and oversee all the arrangements of the house, to conduct the morning and evening devotions, to exercise a parental government over the persons committed to her charge, and by every suitable means instill into their minds the principles of industry, neatness, and piety. She will keep a register of the inmates, and of applicants for admission, and make a monthly report of the state of the family, and so far as it may be necessary, of the progress of each individual, to the Board of Directors. She will also keep an accurate account of the expenses of the house, of the articles received, and the work accomplished; and in general will be considered the responsible head of the Institution.

2. There shall be one or more Assistant Superintendents, according to the number of inmates in the house, whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the Superintendent, to oversee the work of the inmates, and to keep a watchful and friendly supervision over their whole deportment and conversation, by night as well as by day, and generally to aid the Superintendent in accomplishing the purposes of the Institution.

Of Admission and Discharge.

1. Every female who is sincerely desirous of being reclaimed from a course of vice, shall be regarded as a candidate for admission, but preference shall always be given to those whose

departure from virtue has been the least aggravated, either in character or duration.

2. Any such candidate who shall promise to conform to the regulations of the Refuge, and to the directions of the Superintendents, may be immediately received on application to either of the Directors, to any member of the Ladies' Committee, or to the Superintendent at the Refuge, unless on inquiry there should be some reason to doubt the sincerity of her professions of a desire to reform. The case of each person thus received shall be reported to the Committee of the month.

3. Each inmate is considered as placing herself under the care of the Institution until the Directors shall think it proper to give her a regular discharge, either in consequence of a reconciliation with her friends, or by procuring for her a suitable place.

4. The Directors, or the Committee of the month, shall always have power to dismiss any inmate for misconduct.

5. No inmate shall be permitted to remain in the Refuge more than two years, unless under very peculiar circumstances, to be judged of by the Board of Directors. If during that time her deportment shall not have been such as to entitle her to a recommendation to a place, she shall be dismissed as irreclaimable.

Employment.

1. Not less than seven, nor more than eight hours shall be allowed for sleep.

2. Evening prayers will be attended at half past eight o'clock in summer, and at nine o'clock in winter, when circumstances do not prevent.

3. The inmates will retire to rest as early as ten o'clock.

4. Each inmate shall have a separate room, for the neatness and good order of which she shall be responsible.

5. The inmates will rise at the ringing of a bell at five o'clock in summer, and six o'clock in winter. Half an hour will be allowed for reading the Scriptures and private devo-

tion; and the bell for morning prayers will be rung one hour after that for rising.

6. Prayers, both at morning and evening, will be accompanied with reading the Scriptures, and singing.

7. The day will be spent in such labor as the Superintendents shall direct.

8. A committee of the Ladies' Auxiliary Society is expected to visit weekly, for the purpose of examining the state of the house, ascertaining the conduct and improvement of the inmates, and affording such advice and encouragement as may be proper.

9. No person, except the officers of the Ladies' Auxiliary Society, or a Director, shall be allowed to visit an inmate, without permission in writing from the Committee of the month; and with such a permission, the visit shall only be in the presence of one of the Superintendents. In all such cases especial care shall be taken not to violate the confidence of the inmates by exposing them to the intrusion of strangers.

Instruction and Deportment.

1. It shall be the duty of the Superintendents, by advice and instruction, as well as by a Christian example, and also by directing the reading of the inmates, to teach them the principles and duties of religion; it being constantly borne in mind, that whilst the importance of retrieving an injured character is to be highly valued, the necessity of that renovation of heart and life which shall be to the salvation of the soul, is of infinitely higher consequence.

2. It is expected of the inmates, that their deportment will be in conformity to the character of the instructions prescribed in the preceding rule; that they avoid all improper conversation, all mutual reproaches for past delinquency, and that they abstain from every thing inconsistent with the design of the Institution.

3. The Directors will provide that public worship be held in the Refuge at least once every Lord's day, when, if practicable,

the services of a clergyman will be obtained; and on such other occasions as they shall appoint.

The Refuge Society owns a commodious and substantial building on Rutland Street, with 12,500 feet of land granted by the City Government, unincumbered and every way suited for its purposes. The Bethesda Society has a permanent fund of $8,000, well invested, the income of which is applied to defraying the expenses of the Institution. Beside this, are the proceeds of work done by the inmates, amounting to about $400. In addition to this, there is needed about $1,000 to cover annual expenses. This has been obtained from benevolent individuals by annual solicitations. But the uncertainty attending this mode of meeting the deficiency, and the consequent labor involved, often leaves the Society in arrears, and creates great embarrassment. To remedy this evil, and enable the Managers to direct their efforts more exclusively to the important duties devolving upon them in conducting its operations, it seems desirable, and indeed indispensable, that a permanent fund should be created, which will yield the amount annually.

The Directors have decided to make an appeal to friends of the object for this purpose, and they invite a candid examination of the subject on the part of benevolent individuals under whose notice this paper may come. A fund of $15,000 will be required, which would be sufficient, with judicious management, to answer its purposes.

Lehrbuch

(Nov., 1887, 20,000)

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